

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (Currently amended) A retractable ramp system comprising:

a frame including guide shafts;

a ramp platform;

a ramp carriage assembly for moving said ramp platform, the ramp carriage assembly movable with respect to the frame and including linear bearings translational along said guide shafts, and pivot arms connected with said linear bearings, said pivot arms pivotably connected with said ramp platform;

a motor coupled to the frame;

a motor drive shaft;

a drive pulley connected with said motor drive shaft;

a belt in communication with said drive pulley and said ramp carriage assembly;

a motor release assembly configured to disconnect and connect said drive pulley from said motor; and

a manual control assembly comprising a control cable, wherein ~~operation~~ movement of the control cable moves the ramp carriage assembly.

2. (Currently amended) The retractable ramp system of claim 1 wherein said ~~mechanical~~ motor release assembly comprises:

a release cable; and

a release actuator in communication with an end of said release cable and configured to disconnect and connect said drive pulley from said motor.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The A retractable ramp system of claim 2 further comprising~~  
comprising:

a frame;

a ramp platform;

a ramp carriage assembly for moving said ramp platform, the ramp carriage assembly  
movable with respect to the frame;

a motor coupled to the frame;

a motor drive shaft;

a drive pulley connected with said motor drive shaft;

a belt in communication with said drive pulley and said ramp carriage assembly;

a motor release assembly configured to disconnect and connect said drive pulley from  
said motor, said motor release assembly including a release cable and a release actuator in  
communication with an end of said release cable and configured to disconnect and connect said  
drive pulley from said motor;

a manual control assembly comprising a control cable, wherein movement of the control  
cable moves the ramp carriage assembly; and

a sliding collar mounted upon said motor drive shaft, said sliding collar connected with  
said release actuator, said sliding collar comprising at least one pin extending from said collar for  
connecting said drive pulley.

4. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 3 wherein said release  
actuator comprises a first end and an opposite end, said first end pivotable about a point and said  
opposite end connected with said sliding collar.

5. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 3 further comprising a  
keyed collar connected with said motor drive shaft between said sliding collar and said drive  
pulley.

6. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 5 wherein said keyed collar defines  
at least one opening for the passage of said pin of said sliding collar.

7. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 3 wherein said drive pulley defines at least one opening for the insertion of said pin of said sliding collar.

8. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 3 further comprising:  
a stop collar connected with said motor drive shaft; and  
a spring connected with said motor drive shaft between said stop collar and said sliding collar.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The A retractable ramp system of claim 1 wherein said manual control assembly further comprises:~~ comprising:

a frame;

a ramp platform;

a ramp carriage assembly for moving said ramp platform, the ramp carriage assembly movable with respect to the frame;

a motor coupled to the frame;

a motor drive shaft;

a drive pulley connected with said motor drive shaft;

a belt in communication with said drive pulley and said ramp carriage assembly;

a motor release assembly configured to disconnect and connect said drive pulley from said motor; and

a manual control assembly comprising a control cable, a manual control bearing block in communication with said ramp carriage assembly and said control cable; cable, and a crank in communication with said control cable, wherein said control cable moves said ramp carriage assembly during manual operation of said ramp carriage assembly.

10. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 9 wherein said crank comprises:

a crank handle; and

a manual control pulley in communication with said crank handle and said control cable.

11. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 10 further comprising:  
a shaft comprising a first end and a second end, said first end of said shaft inserted into said crank handle; and  
a one-way bearing inserted into said second end of said shaft, said second end of said shaft in communication with said manual control pulley.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim [[12]] 1 further comprising:  
a member extending orthogonally between said pivot arms; and  
a torsion bar extending orthogonally between said pivot arms.

14. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 13 further comprising a torsion spring for preloading said torsion bar.

15. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 14 further comprising a bar extending between said torsion bar and an end of said ramp platform for providing a downward force against an end of said ramp platform.

16. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 1 further comprising:  
a ramp flap;  
a ramp flap hinge in communication with said ramp flap; and  
at least one ramp flap wheel connected with an underside of said ramp flap, said wheel translational upon said ramp platform.

17. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 16 further comprising a ramp flap actuator bracket connected with one of said at least one ramp flap wheel, said bracket providing a force against said ramp flap upon a movement of said ramp platform.

18. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 17 wherein said ramp platform defines a cutout through which said at least one ramp flap wheel drops when said ramp platform deploys.

19. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 17 wherein said ramp platform defines a cutout through which said at least one ramp flap wheel drops upon deployment of said ramp platform.

20. (Original) The retractable ramp system of claim 1 wherein said carriage assembly comprises a profile approximately equal to the profile of said ramp platform.

21. (Currently amended) A method of operating a retractable ramp system, the method comprising:

moving a ramp platform with a ramp carriage assembly including translating linear bearings along guide shafts, the linear bearings connected to pivot arms pivotably connected to the ramp platform;

powering the ramp platform with a motor having a motor drive shaft;

rotating a drive pulley upon the motor drive shaft;

moving the ramp carriage assembly relative to the motor with a belt in communication with the drive pulley and ramp carriage assembly;

disconnecting and connecting the drive pulley from the motor using a motor release assembly; and

manually deploying the ramp system using a control cable in communication with the ramp carriage assembly when the drive pulley is disconnected from the motor.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of disconnecting and connecting the drive pulley from the motor with a motor release assembly comprises disconnecting the motor from the drive pulley with a release actuator.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the step of disconnecting the motor from the drive pulley with a release actuator comprises pulling on the release actuator with a release cable.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of pulling on the release actuator with a release cable comprises pivoting an end of the release actuator about a pivot point.

25. (Currently amended) The A method of claim 23 operating a retractable ramp system, the method comprising:

moving a ramp platform with a ramp carriage assembly;

powering the ramp platform with a motor having a motor drive shaft;

rotating a drive pulley upon the motor drive shaft;

moving the ramp carriage assembly relative to the motor with a belt in communication with the drive pulley and ramp carriage assembly;

disconnecting and connecting the drive pulley from the motor using a motor release assembly, wherein disconnecting the drive pulley from the motor includes ~~wherein the step of pulling on the a~~ release actuator with a release cable comprises and ~~translating a sliding collar along the motor drive shaft with the release actuator.~~ actuator; and

manually deploying the ramp system using a control cable in communication with the ramp carriage assembly when the drive pulley is disconnected from the motor.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising providing at least one pin extending from the sliding collar, said pin for connecting with and disconnecting from the drive pulley.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising providing a keyed collar mounted upon the motor drive shaft between the sliding collar and drive pulley.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising passing a pin of the sliding collar through an opening defined in the keyed collar.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising removing a pin of the sliding collar from an opening defined in the drive pulley to disconnect the drive pulley from the motor.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising spring-loading the sliding collar with a spring force opposing the pulling force applied to the release actuator.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising connecting the drive pulley with the motor by inserting a pin of the sliding collar through an opening defined in the drive pulley with the spring force exerted on the sliding collar.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) ~~The A method of claim 21 operating a retractable ramp system,~~  
the method comprising:

moving a ramp platform with a ramp carriage assembly;

powering the ramp platform with a motor having a motor drive shaft;

rotating a drive pulley upon the motor drive shaft;

moving the ramp carriage assembly relative to the motor with a belt in communication with the drive pulley and ramp carriage assembly;

disconnecting and connecting the drive pulley from the motor using a motor release assembly; and

manually deploying the ramp system using a control cable in communication with the ramp carriage assembly when the drive pulley is disconnected from the motor, wherein the step of manually deploying the ramp system when the drive pulley is disconnected from the motor comprises:

~~operatively communicating a manual control bearing block with the ramp carriage assembly;~~

~~connecting the control cable to the manual control bearing block; and~~

translating the ramp carriage assembly with ~~the~~ a manual control bearing block by moving the manual control bearing block with a control ~~cable~~ cable, wherein the control cable is connected to the manual control bearing block, and the manual control bearing block operatively communicates with the ramp carriage assembly.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of moving the manual control bearing block with a ~~manual~~ the control cable comprises:  
turning a crank handle; and  
taking up the ~~manual~~ control cable onto a manual control pulley controlled by the crank handle.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising allowing the manual control pulley to rotate only in a single direction.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:  
extending a member orthogonally between the pivot arms; and  
extending a torsion bar orthogonally between the pivot arms.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 further comprising preloading the torsion bar with a torsion spring.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising providing a downward force against an end of the ramp platform with a bar extending between the torsion bar and an end of the ramp platform.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising:  
rotating a ramp flap with a ramp flap hinge;  
connecting at least one ramp flap wheel with an underside of the ramp flap; and  
translating a ramp flap wheel connected with the ramp platform.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 further comprising providing a force against the ramp flap upon a movement of the ramp platform with a ramp flap actuator bracket connected with one of the ramp flap wheels.



42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 further comprising dropping a ramp flap wheel into a cutout defined in the ramp platform when the ramp platform moves.

43. (Previously presented) A method of deploying a retractable ramp system, the method comprising:

- rotating a motor shaft;
- rotating a drive pulley with the motor shaft;
- moving a drive belt with the drive pulley;
- deploying a ramp carriage assembly for a ramp platform with the drive belt;
- pivoting the ramp platform around support bearings of the ramp carriage assembly when the ramp platform deploys beyond a predetermined point; and
- dropping wheels of a ramp flap into a cutout defined in the ramp platform when the ramp platform deploys.

44. (Currently amended) A method of stowing a retractable ramp system, the method comprising:

- rotating a motor shaft;
- rotating a drive pulley with the motor shaft;
- moving a drive belt with the drive pulley;
- stowing a ramp carriage assembly for a ramp platform with the drive belt;
- pivoting the ramp platform around support bearings of the ramp carriage assembly;
- engaging a bracket with a portion of the ramp platform;
- rotating a ramp flap into a horizontal position with a force provided by the bracket, the  
~~brackets~~ bracket connected with wheels connected with an underside of the ramp flap; and
- translating the ramp flap wheels along the ramp platform.

45. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 1, wherein said belt is in connected with said drive pulley when the motor is disconnected from said drive pulley.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the belt is in connected with the drive pulley when the drive pulley is disconnected from the motor.